over the past successive estimations are as follows:—

Year	1972	1979	1984	1989	1993
Tiger Population	1827	3015	4005	4334	3750

The reports of All India Tiger Estimation—1997 are still awaited from most of the tiger range States.

(c) The various measures taken by the Government to conserve the country's tiger population are enlisted in statement (See *below).* As a result of these measures, the Tiger Reserves have shown habitat resurrection, imporevement in prey biomass, strengthening in protection network and increased detection of tiger poaching and other wildlife offence cases.

(d) Certain new initiatives are contemplated to promote and conserve the Indian Tiger during IXth Plan which are as follows:—

(i) Creation of new Tiger Reserves.
(ii) Speedy and adequate settlement of compensation claims for life and property damage caused by the wildlife especially tiger.
(iii) Continuous monitoring of the tiger population in tiger range States.
(iv) Provision of adequate bud-get and to ensure smooth flow of funds to the Tiger Reserves. Statement

Steps Taken by the Government of India to Project Tiger

1. The State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling.
2. Training and Workshops of various enforcement agencies for effective intelligence gathering and law enforcement.
3. Setting up of a national Coordination Committee to control poaching and illegal trade in wildlife with enforcement agencies like Customs, Revenue Intelligence, Indo-Tibbetan Border Police, Boarder Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Coast Guards, State Police, Deputy Director Wildlife Preservation & Scientific Organisations like Zoological and Botcnical Survey of India.
4. To control transboundary trade, a protocol has been signed with People's Republic of China and a MOU with his Matesty's Government of Nepal.
5. Initiated creation of a Forum of Tiger Range Countries, i.e. Global Tiger Forum for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.
6. Launching of public awareness programme to involve Non-Govcrnmcn-tal Organisations and others for supporting the Government in its efforts towards wildlife conservation.
7. Supporting programmes of Institutions and NGOs in exploring tiger trade routes and developing a forensic identification reference Manual for tiger parts and products.
8. Funds are being provided to the State Governments for the eco-de-velopment of the areas to reduce the biotic pressure thereon.
9. Steps are being initiated to set up sitespecific "Special Strike Force" in the Project Tiger areas.

Steps for Preservation of Forests in the North-Eastern Region

1075. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken/initiated by the Union Government to preserve

forests and to plant new forests in the States of the North-Eastern region during the preceeding five years; and

(b) the levels of achievements in each case/instance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Autonomy to States in Forest Related Matters

1076. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Chief Ministers of many States have demanded that forest related mat ters should be given back to States from the Central purview; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to examine and decide this issue as early as possible so as to give more autonomy to States in the economic fields as well as forest related matters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) One of the recommendations made by Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State relations is, delegation of powers to the States to divert upto 5 hectares of reserved forest lands which are urgently required for specific public purposes. In a meeting of Inter-State Council held in November, 1997 this recommendation has been agreed to in principle subject to suitable terms and conditions as might be required under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in a court case regarding forestry matters in which, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is also one of the issues under consideration.

Rising Vehicular Pollution

1077. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEEN A VERMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: «

(a) whether Government's attention was drawn to a report of the NGO "Vatavaran" published in the Pioneer, dated 20th February, 1998, that vehicular pollution which constituted only 3% of air pollution in Delhi in 1970-71 had crossed 63% in 1990-91 and has already crossed 70% by now;

(b) if so, what are the major factors contributing to such heavy vehicular pol lution on Delhi roads; and

(c) what steps have been and are prop osed to be taken to check this pollution and protect Delhi citizens from ghastly diseases like cancer, asthma, bronchitis and other respiratory diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) Yes sir.

(b) The major factors contributing to heavy vehicular pollution on Delhi roads are:

(i) Increase in population of vehicles, particularly personalized vehicles;

(ii) Most in use vehicles (pre-1990) are of old engine design and are high emitters;

(iii) High emissions of carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons from 2 and 3-wheelers accounting for *1/* 3 of total vehicular pollution;

(iv) Overloading of transport system;

(v) Pollution from diesel trucks and DTC and privately operated buses;

(c) (i) The Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority has been set up for the